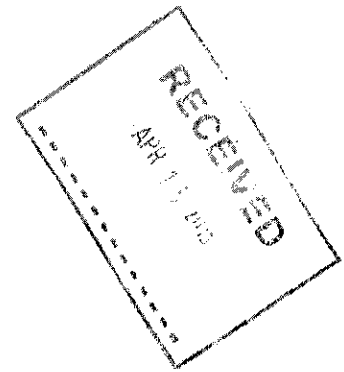


Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and
Sediment Management Unit
Environmental Protection Agency



Re: I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project
Bonneville Power Administration

Dear Ms. Reichgott:

I have just read your comments on the I-5 Reinforcement Project, dated 3-25-2013. You mentioned that you have insufficient information to make a recommendation on this project and then you make a recommendation to install these lethal, 500kv wires, atop 15 to 25 story high, ugly towers through the most densely populated part of southern Washington state.

It appears that the approximately twelve thousand people (3032 family homes) who live, go to school and shop within 500 feet from these high voltage lines are of little concern to you and your agency. Is it because people have less importance and consideration than wetlands, fish and birds? (There are deer, coyote, etc. living in the wooded areas that would have to be clear cut along the Western Alternative.) While this has always been the E.P.A.'s reputation in the past, I thought the recent N.E.P.A. regulations call for the impact on the human population to be a major consideration.

Is your recommendation to put these wires on the most heavily populated alternative contrary to N.E.P.A. regulations?

What consideration was given to the thousands of children, living within the lethal impact of the Electro-Magnetic Field and even more children attending the three schools that are within the 500 feet danger area of these wires?

Where is your attention to the hundreds of home owners who find that the balance of their mortgage is higher than the current value of their property due to the threat of these wires being built so close to the houses? Home values and sales are on the rise all over the nation, except in southwest Washington thanks to the threat of these high voltage lines and their monster towers.

It is my impression that where the old 240kv lines impacted wetlands they have been there for so many years that the negative impact has been able to heal. The new 500kv wires would re-pollute these wetlands and cause much greater harm than the lesser energy wires caused and that there are fifty acres more wetlands in jeopardy along the western alternative than the other three alternatives.

I find that your lack of concern for the people who will be negatively impacted by the 500kv lines and the subsequent dangers to their health of the EMF exposure appalling. There are three other alternatives with fewer people who would be endangered, although we would prefer the far eastern path where no people would suffer. This route was quickly dismissed by BPA for no

sound reason. Please reconsider your recommendation that BPA construct these damaging and life threatening wires on the highly populated Western Alternative.

I am enclosing some information, you might find of interest and help you make your recommendation. Please note the homes counted are family homes with an average of 3.7 people in each.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, I do appreciate your attention.

April 5, 2013

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 13, 2011

Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Administrator Wright:

I write regarding the Bonneville Power Administration's proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, which involves the construction of a new electric transmission line from the Castle Rock area in Cowlitz County, Washington to Troutdale, Oregon.

It has been 41 years since the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) built a high-voltage transmission line in southwest Washington. Since then, the population in southwest Washington has more than doubled. Businesses and industries have grown along the I-5 corridor, resulting in substantial economic development. I understand that BPA believes additional high-voltage transmission capacity in southwest Washington is necessary to continue providing reliable electricity service to citizens and businesses, and capacity for future economic growth.

I appreciate your work to ensure continued low-cost, reliable electricity service for the northwest and Washington State. It is the economic backbone for our region. While these benefits must be maintained, I share the concerns that many of my constituents have raised regarding possible locations for the new transmission line.

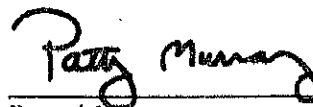
I understand that BPA has undertaken substantial efforts to engage local residents as part of the public comment process required by the National Environmental Policy Act in drafting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. I am pleased that BPA extended the comment period at my request for the initial scoping of the environmental review process to allow more residents to participate. It is also important that affected residents have ample time outside of the busy holiday season to offer comments on the Draft EIS (DEIS) that is expected to be released in the coming months. To this end, I respectfully request that you postpone the release of the DEIS until January 2012 at the earliest.

While an exact route for the proposed transmission line has not been chosen, I urge you to carefully listen to local residents' concerns and identify a solution has the smallest impact on property owners as possible. I look forward to hearing from you as the public process for identifying an appropriate route for the proposed transmission line continues.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator

hazardous to human health, school districts should be conservative and not place new schools within 350 feet of 500kv lines.

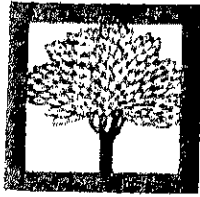
Accordingly, the WEA requests that BPA place the new 500kv southwest Washington line in the east, on unpopulated public land, entirely away from homes and schools. If this is impossible, the new 500kv line should be placed far away from any existing schools or sites chosen for new schools on the date BPA finalizes the route. Children spend many hours a week at school, and children may stay in one school for 6 years; employees work in schools for longer hours and may stay 20 or more years at the same school. Adding exposure at school to residential exposure may be devastating the health of some individuals, particularly children. By siting its lines away from homes and schools, BPA can demonstrate its willingness to avoid an action that might adversely affect human health.

Thank you.



Mary Lindquist

C: Rae Ann Engdahl, Chair, IEQ Work Team



WEA
WASHINGTON
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

Mary Lindquist, President
Mike Ragan, Vice President
John Okamoto, Executive Director

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www.washingtonea.org

December 3, 2010

Mr. Steven Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Wright:

As elected president of the Washington Education Association, I represent more than 80,000 public school employees in the state of Washington. At the WEA Representative Assembly in May 2010, a member expressed deep concern that BPA would place a 500-kilovolt transmission line near schools. In response, the delegates adopted a new business item regarding BPA's proposed new 500-kilovolt transmission line in southwest Washington. The new business item directed WEA to study the impact of high voltage lines on children's and school employee's health.

WEA's Indoor Environmental Quality work team reviewed scientific literature pertinent to this issue. One study, done in Australia in 2007 on a small number of participants, greatly influenced the work team. The Australian study tracked the delayed effect on adults of childhood exposure to magnetic fields of lines up to 220kv. It found a significant increase in lymph cancer occurrence rates for adults who had had residential exposure to such fields. Other studies have not demonstrated that low level exposure to electro magnetic fields is safe. There appears to be no scientific consensus that long term exposure to high voltage lines is not harmful to humans.

It would be wise to apply the precautionary principle in deciding where to place the new 500-kilovolt transmission line. This principle holds that if proposed action risks harm to public health, and science cannot demonstrate that the action is not harmful, the action should not be taken. An example of this precautionary principle is the state of California's School Site Selection and Approval Guide, which states that because EMF fields may or may not be

PATTY MURRAY
WASHINGTON

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 13, 2010

Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Administrator Wright:

I write regarding the Bonneville Power Administration's proposed I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, which involves the construction of a new electric transmission line from the Castle Rock area in Cowlitz County, Washington to Troutdale, Oregon.

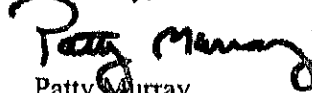
Southwest Washington has grown considerably in the last decade, which has resulted in increased demand for electricity and related infrastructure. I understand the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) believes this project is essential to help keep the lights on for the residents of Southwest Washington while at the same time provide much-needed additional capacity for future economic growth.

At the same time, I share the concerns, particularly around route locations, that many of my constituents have raised regarding this project. I know BPA has made an effort to engage local communities through a public comment process around the Environmental Impact Statement as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). I appreciate that you have already responded to my earlier request and extended that comment period to ensure that more residents could participate. I encourage you to continue to take the concerns of affected residents seriously as you move forward with this process.

As you continue to narrow the viable routes, I strongly urge you to work toward identifying a path forward that impacts the least number of people in Southwest Washington as possible. Our state has long enjoyed the benefits of low-cost, reliable electricity from BPA, and I am determined to keep those benefits in place. I appreciate the role you and BPA have played as a partner in efforts to keep power rates low in Southwest Washington.

I look forward to hearing from you on the steps you will take to determine appropriate routes throughout this process and how you will work to ensure the least impact on the quality of life of individuals and families in Southwest Washington.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

*Working with others in a spirit of cooperation we are committed
to not having any new transmission lines in populated areas*

EMF ISSUES CONTINUE TO BE IGNORED DESPITE NEW STUDIES

BPA has told the public repeatedly that health risks from EMF have not been proven. So should we not worry then if they put up 500 kV high voltage lines near our homes and schools? BPA's own EMF expert, Rick Stearns, stated at a public meeting that you must be 500 ft away from a power line in order to have EMF levels reduced to a safe amount. Many, many homes will have the power lines less than 150 feet from their front door, and some will be going over the tops of the homes.

Scientific data convincingly and consistently show links between magnetic fields greater than 2 to 4mG (milliGauss) and cancer. If you are 90ft from a 500kV line, you will be exposed to 26mG. If you live 200 meters (656 ft) from a power line, there is a 70% increased risk for childhood leukemia and at 600 meters (1,968 ft) a 20% risk. This study clearly shows the BPA expert was incorrect when he stated a person would be safe if they live 500 ft away from a power line. Based on this recent information, how could BPA, an agency that is part of OUR OWN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, still be considering placing these lines where people live?

There can only be one possible answer



At a public meeting in 1988, BPA's EMF expert, Rick Stearns, stated that you must be 500 ft away from a power line in order to have EMF levels reduced to a safe amount. Many, many homes will have the power lines less than 150 feet from their front door, and some will be going over the tops of the homes.

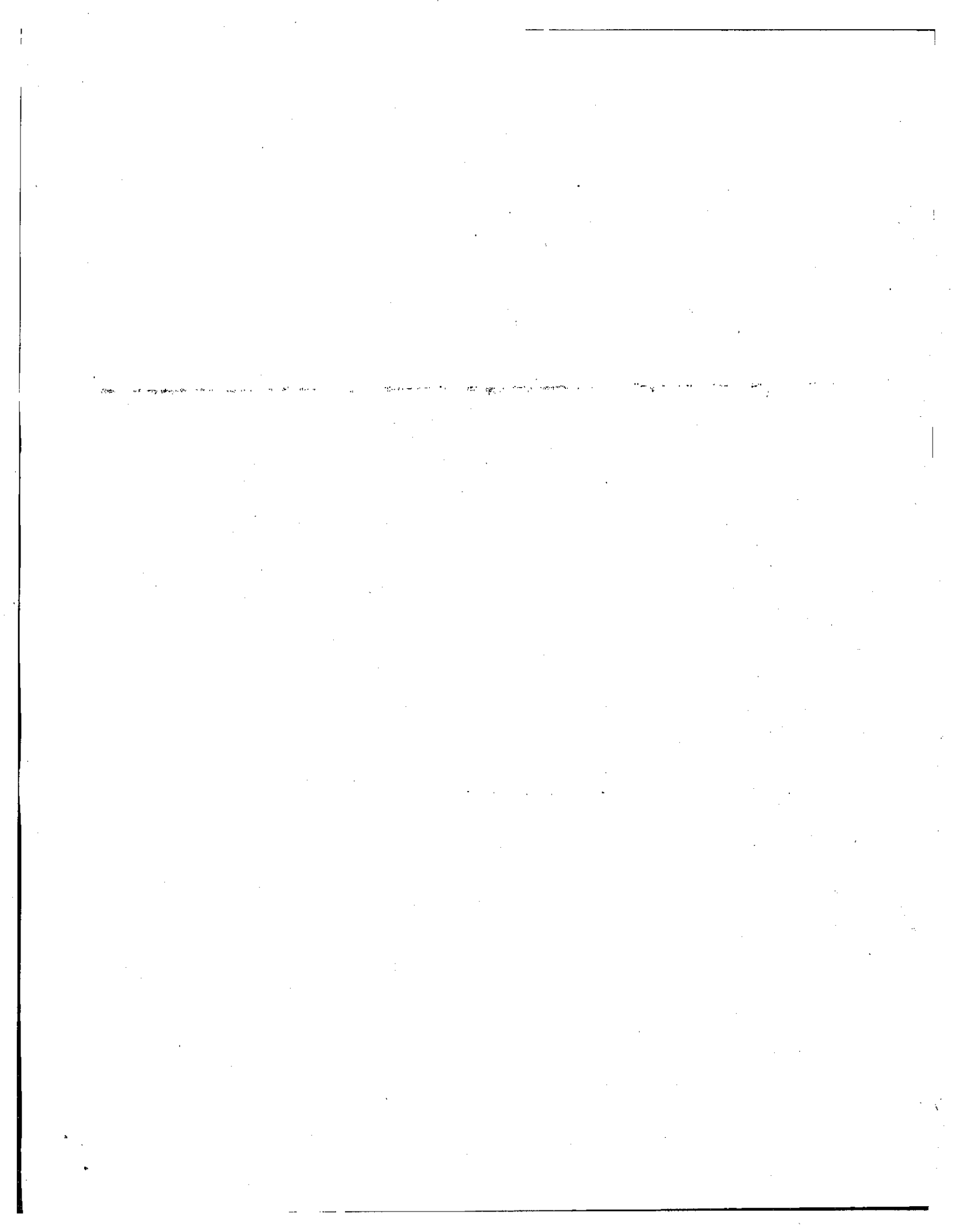
BPA: Do what is right for thousands of impacted citizens of SW Washington!

TAKE THE BEAST EAST!

Two to Four
milliGauss

CANCER

No Lines in Populated Areas, urban or rural p.3

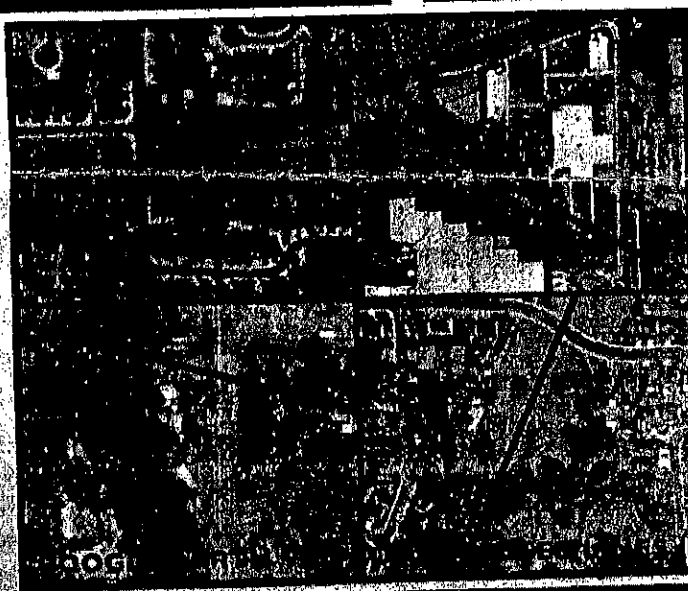
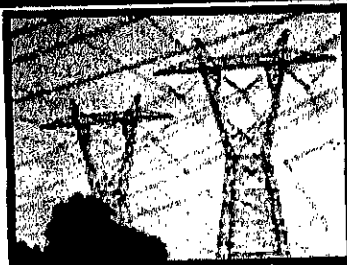
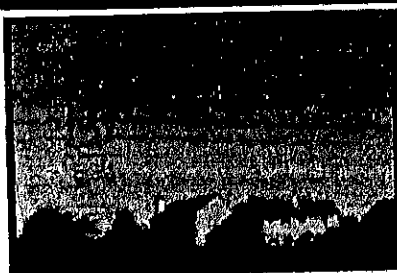


BPA Delivers Count HOMES NEAR LINES

| From edge of right of way* | Number of houses near route alternatives | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------|------|-----------|
| | West | Central | East | Crossover |
| 50 feet | 174 | 14 | 15 | 29 |
| 100 feet | 323 | 26 | 25 | 59 |
| 300 feet | 1,526 | 173 | 157 | 320 |
| 500 feet | 3,032 | 327 | 286 | 657 |

* Right of way is typically a 150-foot wide easement. Power line and towers are placed within the right of way.

Click here to download a PDF file furnished by BPA titled, I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project, Number of houses near route segments. www.bpa.gov/corridor/i5-cis/documents/Houses_near_segments_I-5_Corridor_Reinforcement_Oct2011.pdf



INES NEAR HOMES:

- ◆ **Destroy Families**
- ◆ **Destroy Communities**
- ◆ **Destroy Businesses**
- ◆ **Destroy Environments**

READ THE ARTICLE

 **The Columbian**

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/oct/03/bpa-delivers-its-count-of-homes-near-line-routes/>

TAKE THE BEAST EAST!

